



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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Wallace Fellows begin work on urban principal project

Wisconsin Urban Schools Leadership Project to result in master administrator model

MADISON—Thirty urban principals gathered in Middleton this week for their first meeting as Wallace Fellows, an integral part of a broader three-year project to transform school leadership in Wisconsin and develop a state and national model for master administrator licensure.

“This project draws exemplary principals from Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee, and Racine—our largest urban school districts—to learn together and identify leadership practices that improve student academic performance,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “As these principals work in their schools and districts to close the achievement gap and ensure a quality education for every child, their efforts to bolster school leadership and administrative practice will have an impact statewide.”

Burmaster noted that urban schools have been the first to face some of the major challenges in education, serving families of poverty, educating children for whom English is a second language, providing for children with disabilities, recruiting and retaining quality educators, and investing in programs for early learning opportunities. “While our urban districts face many challenges in education, they also are finding solutions to those challenges. The rest of the state gains so much from these schools,” she said.

The mid-career principals were nominated by district-level leaders to become Wallace Fellows because of their energy and commitment to the growth of their profession and because they have demonstrated that they know how to affect change. During the first portion of the project, the Wallace Fellows will work in both large and small groups to share their knowledge and experience of learning communities and explore ways to assess, plan, and improve learning communities in their schools.

(more)

“A learning community draws together teachers, parents, administrators, and other school staff members, the people who are key in children’s lives, to come to a shared understanding of the goals and actions needed to ensure student success. The principal, as leader of this learning community, guides the various partners to keep working toward the school’s improvement goals,” Burmaster explained. “The ultimate focus is always on improved student achievement.”

The Wallace Fellows will explore other elements of exemplary school leadership during the project, using data for school improvement and accountability. They will work on building instructional capacity, developing urban community engagement and partnerships, and focusing on moral and ethical leadership in urban schools. The Wallace Fellows will assist each other in developing and refining individual portfolios of evidence that demonstrate each principal’s knowledge and ability to lead a school toward improved student performance. The portfolio process will result in a master administrator license.

Funded through a grant from the Wallace Foundation, the Wisconsin Urban Schools Leadership Project is a partnership among the foundation, fellows and their districts, the Department of Public Instruction, Office of the Governor, the Milwaukee Partnership Academy, and three universities: Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The higher education partners, along with the DPI, Milwaukee Partnership Academy, and the Wallace Fellows, will be shaping criteria related to the master principal’s license and ensuring that the license reflects the unique aspects of being an urban principal. Certification at the master principal level will require a portfolio that contains evidence of leadership efforts that have resulted in measured improvements in student learning and mastery of the skills and attributes of a master principal.

“School leadership makes a key difference in schools that are successful in engaging all students in academic learning,” Burmaster said. “These urban principals truly make a difference every day in the lives of the children attending and learning in their schools, and they will make an outstanding cadre of Wisconsin’s first master principals.”

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NOTES: A list of principals chosen as Wallace Fellows follows. Photos of the Wallace Fellows, by district, are available on the Department of Public Instruction Wallace Fellows website at < <http://dpi.wisconsin.gov/sprntdnt/wallace.html> >.

WALLACE FELLOWS

Wisconsin Urban Schools Leadership Project

*A cooperative effort through The Wallace Foundation, Office of the Governor—Gov. Jim Doyle, and
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster*

Linda Allen
Thoreau Elementary School
Madison Metropolitan School District

Lorraine Applewhite
Congress Elementary School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Jonathan Bar-Din
Strange Elementary School
Kenosha School District

Sandra Brand of Pleasant Prairie
Starbuck Middle School
Racine School District

Sheila Briggs of De Forest
Schenk Elementary School
Madison Metropolitan School District

Bev Cann
Lowell Elementary School
Madison Metropolitan School District

Lourdes Castillo-Uribe
Vieau Elementary School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Brian Colbert of Waukegan, IL
Mitchell Elementary School
Racine School District

Kristi Cole
Humboldt Park Elementary School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Kathy Costello
Jackson Elementary School
Green Bay Area School District

Edward Dorff
Howe Elementary School
Green Bay Area School District

Cynthia Ellwood
Hartford Avenue Elementary School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Shelley Geiselman Kritek of Shorewood
Schulte Elementary School
Racine School District

Bridget Hartney
Sixty-Fifth Street Elementary School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Ed Holmes
West High School
Madison Metropolitan School District

Eugene Humphrey
Milwaukee High School of the Arts
Milwaukee Public Schools

Chris Kadow
Fernwood Montessori School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Tim Kavanagh
Cass Street Elementary School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Lisa KC of Burlington
Grant Elementary School
Kenosha School District

Mary Kelley
Black Hawk Middle School
Madison Metropolitan School District

Yvette Martel
Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Sharon Miller of Pleasant Prairie
McKinley Middle School
Kenosha School District

Sherilyn Moon
Keller Elementary School
Green Bay Area School District

Josephine Mosley
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Rogers Onick
Morse Middle School
Milwaukee Public Schools

Dawn Rice
Carson Academy of Science
Milwaukee Public Schools

Nola Starling-Ratliff
Horlick High School
Racine School District

Daniel Tenuta
Reuther Central High School
Kenosha School District

Tammy Van Dyke
Nicolet Elementary School
Green Bay Area School District

Martha Wheeler-Fair
Starms Discovery Learning Center
Milwaukee Public Schools